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MAR 28 1919

REPORTS
OF THE
Trustees and Superintendent
OF THE
BUTLER HOSPITAL
Presented to the Corporation
AT ITS
SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

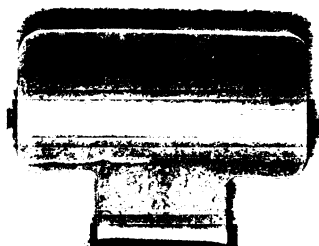
JANUARY 22, 1919

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Visiting days are Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M., and all who desire to make personal inquiries of the medical officers should do so between the specified hours.

Visitors are admitted on Sundays and holidays, or on other than visiting days, only in cases of critical illness or for other sufficient reason.

The telephone number of the Hospital is 192 Angell. Inquiries concerning patients should be made between 11 A. M. and 1 P. M. Miscellaneous communications, such as inquiries about clothing and like matters, should always be by letter.



REPORTS
OF THE
Trustees and Superintendent
OF THE
BUTLER HOSPITAL

Presented to the Corporation
AT ITS
SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 22, 1919

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

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45 Richmond Street
1919

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The full and interesting reports of the Superintendent of Butler Hospital seem to render an additional report by the Trustees a veritable work of supererogation. In point of fact nearly all institutions of a similar character are content with the report of their chief administrative officer. Whether the presentation of an independent report by the Trustees of Butler Hospital should be regarded as evidence of an unusual seriousness in the discharge of their duties, and so "accounted to them for righteousness," or should rather be viewed as the passive acceptance of an outworn custom, "better honored in the breach than in the observance," and so be adduced as evidence of a lack of initiative on their part, it is not for a comparative tyro in the work of the Board to determine. It is for him to obey the mandate of his seniors in service, and to offer herewith the seventy-fifth annual report.

But the writer hastens to assure the Corporation that, in spite of any doubts which he may have cast upon the necessity or value of the custom of dual reports, there can be no question of the interest and devotion which his fellow members of the Board bring to their work. If other evidence were lacking, the gifts of four thousand and ten thousand dollars, just made to Butler Hospital by two of its members, would in themselves be convincing proof of a rare loyalty. Such gifts, spontaneously offered at a time when the

heaviest demands have been made upon the liberality of every citizen, speak more loudly than words.

Apart from the conduct of the financial interests of the institution, the Trustees are charged with the duty of making weekly visits to the Hospital, each one rendering this service for a period of two months every year. On these occasions, the patients have the privilege of direct speech with the Trustees, and also of making any request or complaint. Although many of the inmates are from the nature of their malady unresponsive, there are others who look forward with anticipation to a word of greeting or encouragement. If the regular recurrence of the day suggests official routine, the visits are not formal or perfunctory in spirit. The completion of the period of service, it can be truthfully said, is, sometimes at least, a matter of regret to the visitor rather than of elation at the conclusion of an irksome task, and is not infrequently made the occasion of heart-searching inquiries as to ways and means by which Butler Hospital may be able to render a greater service to the community.

A walk through the wards of Butler Hospital under the guidance of the Superintendent cannot fail to quicken the mind to serious reflection. The comfortable and attractive quarters, the kindness and sympathy of physicians and nurses, the freedom of movement permitted the patients, and the distraction of pleasant occupations—all these conditions offer striking and happy contrast to the treatment meted out to such sufferers in past centuries. As a contrasting picture, compare the con-

ditions exhibited by the writings of Esquirol, by the parliamentary debates on the asylums of York and Bedlam — significant name, originally Bethlehem Hospital!—and by reports presented to the National Assembly of France in 1789 under the auspices of La Rochefoucauld. These conditions have been summarized by a writer in the *Law Quarterly Review* as “a picture of prisons in which lunatics, criminal lunatics, and criminals are huddled together indiscriminately without regard to sex, or age; of asylums in which the maniac, to whom motion is an imperative necessity, is chained in the same cell with the victim of melancholia whom his ravings soon goad into furious madness; and of hospitals in which the epileptic, the scrofulous, the paralytic, and the insane sleep side by side — a picture of cells, dark, foul, and damp, with starving, diseased, and naked inmates, flogged into submission, or teased into fury for the sport of idle spectators.”

It happened that the present writer, many years before his first visit to Butler Hospital, had been deeply interested in the history of the ideas which determined the course of European and of early American practice in this field. It is a fascinating but tragic story, this, of the emergence among the Greeks in the fifth century B.C. of a true conception of the nature of mental disease, of the growth of the superstitious beliefs that gradually obscured this dawning knowledge, and of the almost universal, though unintentional, inhumanity and cruelty that followed in every country in Christendom down to the beginnings of a brighter era, when the work of

pioneers like Pinel in France and Tuke in England ushered in the day of scientific and humane psychiatry. The present occasion is, however, no time to recount this history, which can be studied at abundant sources by any one minded to pursue the subject. But it may not be unprofitable to recall the central fact, that only free, unprejudiced investigation won this triumph of science over superstition. The interests of truth proved here, as always in the long run, to be the interests of humanity. We have entered into a heritage hardly achieved. It is ours because men were willing to suffer in reputation, or fortune, or life itself, for the cause of truth. Even when Tuke began his work at York in 1792, the same year in which Pinel was made physician at Bicêtre, he received little encouragement. In a letter concerning his efforts, he exclaims, "All men seem to desert me." We may also recall the fact—not altogether favorable to our complacency—that from the seventh century the Moslem treatment of mental diseases had been more intelligent and humane than had that of Christian Europe. Even as late as 1789, John Howard declared that he had found in Constantinople a better hospital for the insane than the great St. Luke's Hospital of London.

This historical excursion is not made to inspire satisfaction with present conditions, but rather to suggest that, as heirs of the past, we should feel renewed zeal in the cause which we now represent.

Another reflection which forces itself upon every observer of the patients in an institution like Butler Hospital is that a large number of the cases of mental

disease are strictly preventable. A certain percentage, by no means small, is due to other diseases which are themselves preventable, chiefly by the observance of higher moral standards. And there are some types for which prevention through control of hereditary factors may be judiciously invoked. On this ground, I am aware, it is necessary to tread warily. From ancient times down to the present day it has been recognized that there is a close relation between genius and insanity. Aristotle observed it, and declared, according to the statement of Cicero, *omnes ingeniosos melancholicos esse*. In an earlier report, Dr. Blumer wittily remarked that "Rhode Island had been spared much dulness in her people as the concomitant advantage of unhampered mating." He also pointed out that while the more highly organized and sensitive nervous mechanism is the more prone to disease, it is precisely the persons so endowed whose work society could ill afford to lose. One suspects, however, that the world could dispense with some measure of its melancholy, not to say melancholia, without seriously endangering its creative genius or materially augmenting the dulness from which it so sorely suffers. Happily there is a growing understanding of the risks incurred in marriage when there is a direct hereditary predisposition to mental disease. We may confidently trust the forces of education to inspire a proper sense of responsibility in this matter at all the higher levels of intelligence.

But the problem of heredity is aggravated tenfold in another form of mental abnormality, that of

feeble-mindedness. The individuals concerned are impervious to general enlightenment, and the balance-sheet of social welfare always shows a deficit, since there are no off-setting gains of genius to place to the credit side of the account. Rather do we find here a fruitful source of other evils — crime, alcoholism, prostitution, illegitimacy, and poverty. The results of neglect are not only to burden charity with tasks far beyond its present resources, but also directly to multiply the dependent class of the future. It has been established that if both parents are feeble-minded by heredity — not by injury or disease — all the children will be defective; and that, if one parent is feeble-minded, on the average, half of the children will be defective. Students of the subject seem to agree that feeble-mindedness is on the increase. It is not difficult to see why this should be the case. The protection offered to the weaker members of society is far greater at the present time than under more primitive conditions; and the feeble-minded reproduce far more rapidly than do the normal members of society. This is a spectacle only witnessed in the human race, the worst bred of all living species. The cure for this evil is to be found in the early recognition of defectives, their segregation, and education, according to capacity, for simple but useful tasks. Such a programme is dictated by kindness as well as by prudence. A single example, given by Dr. Fernald, Superintendent of the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded, will serve to illustrate the folly of neglect. A feeble-minded girl of the higher grade had been accepted as

pupil at this school when fifteen years of age. Her mother refused at the last moment to send her, because of the disgrace of publicly acknowledging her condition. Ten years later this young woman was committed to the School by the court. In the meantime she had borne six illegitimate children, all feeble-minded, of whom four were still living. The city in which the girl lived had for several periods supported her at the Almshouse, and was compelled to assume the life-long care of her children, while her mother had died, broken-hearted. Not only to the defectives themselves, but also to the society that ignores their problem, the French couplet applies:

"C'est vrai, et je le repête,
On n'est pas bon quand on est bête."

It is encouraging to note that among its many other good works, the National Committee for Mental Hygiene has undertaken the study and publication of the facts of feeble-mindedness.

In the annual report of three years ago Mr. Gardner ably set forth the aims and methods of this National Committee. Since that time it has rendered a noteworthy service to the government. Its Medical Director, Dr. Salmon, was sent to take charge of the cases of nervous and mental trouble in the American Expeditionary Forces in France. It has also made a systematic effort — the first of its kind on the part of any country — to raise an army nervously and mentally, as well as physically, fit. In the first year of the War more than twelve thousand

men were excluded for failure to measure up to the standard in these respects.

The National Committee for Mental Hygiene, of which Dr. Blumer is a member, proposes for the future a comprehensive programme: it is nothing less than the application of the principles of mental hygiene to the many-sided needs of national life. This programme has been interestingly set forth by the President, Dr. Lewellys F. Barker. Insisting upon a scientific psychiatry as foundation for all its work, Dr. Barker proceeds to show that the applied science and the art of mental hygiene bear important relations to political, social, and moral conditions. Mental hygiene, he declares, includes among its ideal but legitimate tasks: "(1) seeing to it that of the human beings born into the world more than hitherto inherit normal capacity for ethical development, and (2) seeing to it that the circumstances of education and of experience are such that the development of virtuous traits of character is favored and the growth of vicious traits hindered." Such a plan of campaign intimately concerns the family, the community, and the state. Especially should it concern our entire system of education from the primary grades to the university. It is essentially a work of salvage — salvage of the failures in life, the defective, the maladjusted, the unstable. Although none of us probably are Utopian enough to expect that all can be saved, for "straight is the gate and narrow the way," we must sympathize with this generous and humanitarian ideal.

The National Committee for Mental Hygiene deserves the support of public-spirited citizens, especially of those interested in the work with which Butler Hospital has been charged by its founders and benefactors. Two years ago the Committee undertook the publication of a quarterly review, *Mental Hygiene*. This review aims to present articles of practical value, not too technical for the general reader. This journal can profitably be added to the list of publications for libraries and for the home.

The presentation of the seventy-fifth annual report of the Trustees is a fitting occasion to consider how the work of Butler Hospital may be improved and enlarged. Has not the time arrived for serious consideration of the advisability of an endowment for a Research Laboratory? Dr. Blumer has more than once urged the importance of such a foundation. We should need not only an adequately equipped laboratory, but also the services of the ablest investigating psychiatrist who could be secured. Such an equipment would add to the effective resources of the hospital, and would also enable us to do our share in the forward-looking work of science.

Owing to conditions brought about by the War, especially the difficulty, and even impossibility, of securing competent nurses and help, the number of patients has fallen to the lowest point reached for many years. The Trustees earnestly desire to place the resources of Butler Hospital at the command of all who need its helpful agencies, and particularly of all those sufferers who can here be

treated with prospect of recovery or improvement. To this end we cordially invite the coöperation not only of the physicians of the city and state, but also of the general public. The charitable funds of the institution always make its use possible for those who are unable to pay the full cost of treatment.

Grateful for the generous support which has been given to Butler Hospital in the past, we face the future, confident that its needs will be the sure measure of public beneficence.

For the Board of Trustees,
WALTER GOODNOW EVERETT,
Committee.

REPORT OF THE PHYSICIAN-IN-CHIEF AND SUPERINTENDENT

To the Trustees of Butler Hospital.

Gentlemen: The heavy work of the Annual Report having been generously undertaken by a member of your Board and done with a light, though philosophic, touch, your superintendent is happy to-day in finding himself relieved of all extraneous obligation and, in a sense, a supernumerary actor on this stage. Indeed, you and I are alike fortunate in having as reporter a connoisseur in "Moral Values" who, manifestly, has been actuated in choice of theme by the Platonic dictum, "Let not him who chooses first be careless and let not the last despair." As once was said of Francis Bacon, Professor Everett has risen above the horizon of knowledge high enough to take a comprehensive view of the whole field without reaching an altitude at which he has lost sight of any of the essential details of the survey. As regards the status of Mental Hygiene in so far as that science and art affects the well-being of the whole country, with incidental reference to the work, and no less the duty, of Butler Hospital, he may be said to have elaborated and brought up to date the report of three years ago of Mr. Rathbone Gardner, who wisely gave the lead. In the splendid evolution of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene during that brief interval, men have indeed been running to and fro upon the earth and knowledge has increased,

as shown objectively by what has been achieved by that spirited and philanthropic organization in the broad field of bleeding humanity. And surely it is eminently fitting that one who elsewhere, in a recent text-book, has called attention to the intimate interdependence of the relations of mind and body should now have championed the cause of national hygiene and given point by the way to his cheerful doctrine that "not a little of the world's best work is always done by those who are handicapped by physical [and perhaps mental] weakness and pain." For, if one may borrow the author's thought and its clothing, we are too prone to read the legend "No thoroughfare" on the barriers that mental infirmity erects when very often the summons of the intelligence and the will, properly directed, may erase that forbidding sign.

If now, at the end of a cruel and devastating war, this country and Butler Hospital find their coffers depleted, we may well reflect complacently that there has come to us a *wealth* of the kind implied by that word in its original Anglo-Saxon connotation and that all of us have been privileged sharers, directly or indirectly, of the lavish gifts of philanthropic science that for over four long years have made for the alleviation of human woe and the welfare of mankind.

Three score years and ten and a lustrum to boot mark a respectable milestone on the journey of life even in the age of an institution. It is an anniversary that might appropriately be celebrated by a review of the operations of Butler Hospital covering three-

quarters of a century but for the circumstance that five years ago our seventieth birthday was kept in that way. Suffice it, therefore, in this place to register the hope that the solemn offering for the purification of the Roman people made by one of the censors every five years may now have its Christian counterpart in the prayer that, similarly, Butler Hospital may be purified and filled full with a holy joy of success in her lusty age.

And now, gentlemen, risking a too rapid descent to the plane of bathos, I end this brief introduction abruptly to give you the inevitable statistics and the desultory chronicle of our year's doings.

There were in the Hospital on December 31, 1917, one hundred and forty-three patients, sixty-six men and seventy-seven women. There have been admitted ninety-nine patients, forty-one men and fifty-eight women. The whole number under treatment during the year was two hundred and forty-two. The maximum number at any one time was one hundred and forty-eight, the minimum one hundred and nineteen, and the average weekly number for the year one hundred and twenty-eight. The discharges numbered one hundred and twelve, forty-nine men and sixty-three women, leaving in the Hospital at the end of the year one hundred and thirty patients, fifty-eight men and seventy-two women.

Of the admissions sixty-two were residents of Providence, twenty-one of other parts of Rhode Island, twelve of New England states, and five of other states.

Of the discharges seven patients were unchanged, nineteen had recovered, forty-eight were improved, twenty were unimproved, and eighteen had died. The causes of death in these cases were as follows: Acute hemorrhagic encephalitis, one; acute hemorrhagic encephalitis and broncho-pneumonia, one; tropho-neurosis and general arteriosclerosis, one; glioma of brain, lobar pneumonia, one; involution psychosis, tropho-neurosis, one; tropho-neurosis, convulsion, one; chronic endocarditis, interstitial nephritis, arteriosclerosis, one; chronic endocarditis, atrophic cirrhosis of liver, one; myocarditis, chronic interstitial nephritis, one; post-apoplectic dementia, tropho-neurosis, one; apoplexy, four; brain tumor, apoplexy, one; broncho-pneumonia, pulmonary oedema, general paresis, one; cerebral embolism, one; myocarditis, pulmonary oedema, one.

Of the admissions thirty-seven and three-tenths per cent were voluntary. The average admission rate for the year was \$28.58. The average weekly cost was \$31.60. The average weekly receipts per patient were \$27.76.

Of the two hundred and forty-two patients under treatment during the year, one hundred and ninety-two, or seventy-nine and three-tenths per cent, paid less than the average cost; one hundred and twenty-seven, or fifty-two and four-tenths per cent, paid less than half the average cost; and twenty, or eight and two-tenths per cent, were supported without cost to themselves.

It is not surprising that the average admission rate for the year reached the high-water mark at \$28.58.

Superficial deduction from this datum is apt to be fallacious since aid from beneficiary funds is included in the sum total of income, and the larger outgo is largely balanced by receipts from patients of the well-to-do class whose contributions have swelled the general fund out of which the expense of maintenance has been met. At no time in the history of Butler Hospital have beneficiary allowances been granted with more lavish hand by the Trustees and never has the institution earned more deservedly its claim to be regarded as an instrument of charity in the inclusive sense of that word. The policy of the Trustees to "succour, help, and comfort, all that are in danger, necessity, and tribulation" has been borne in mind, and, even in our sorely crippled service in the hard times of war, the principle of "women and children first" has been followed when shipwreck threatened.

The relations of Butler Hospital with the Secretary of the Charitable Commission, formerly Agent of State Charities, Mr. Walter R. Wightman, have been, as in years past, most friendly. That official of long experience has relieved many a burden of expense that otherwise would have been too great for carriage by giving worthy patients the timely succor of State funds appropriated for that purpose. In all seventy-four persons have profited by his zealous co-operation on our behalf during the year.

Similarly, a multitude of patients have been helped in sickness and sorrow out of the special funds of

Butler Hospital created for the like purpose. The total number of such beneficiaries during the year was one hundred and twelve, or eighty-seven and five-tenths of our average *Beneficiary* population. *Funds*

These two paragraphs are the answer to the question, sometimes raised, how it happens that the average patient — since this is not primarily a hospital for the wealthy — is able in these expensive times to meet the average cost of maintenance. As a matter of fact but fifty patients, or twenty and seven-tenths per cent of the total number under treatment, paid themselves for board and medical treatment, without extraneous aid, the average per capita rate or more.

While it pleases us to regard ourselves as primarily a hospital for the acute and curable forms of nervous and mental disease, it is not possible, neither were it desirable if practicable, to sustain a principle that should exclude all chronic psychoses from admission. The question of ad- *The* missibility, always more important than *Admissions* material considerations, has been decided after a review of all the facts, medical and other, with what result in the issue I do not need to remind the Trustees, who, visiting each in turn every week for two months of consecutive service, know so well the facts.

Dementia praecox patients and those of "praecox personality" so called, have constituted eighteen per cent of the admissions. The pitfalls of adolescence are nowadays more readily recognized by the general

practitioner, who begins to appreciate the true significance of an early mental breakdown and to realize that such cases, if salvable at all, are more likely to be readjusted in a special hospital than if left to shut themselves in and drift hopelessly at home. It is in this field that psychopathic wards with out-patient departments are of service in municipal hospitals, since the timely examination of peculiar children and eccentric adolescents by a competent psychiatrist may often be of the utmost usefulness in guiding their handicapped lives aright.

The number of admissions has been below normal, partly, though not wholly, because of abnormal conditions of service. For several months it was necessary to close two wards for lack of men who, neither for love of charity nor such money as we could afford to pay them, could be pressed into occupation as attendants. And many of those who offered their services in our great need were sorry servants in the cause. At one time we were reduced, unbelievable as the figure may seem, to a total of eight men on day service.

While this report is in preparation comes the good news that the City Hospital is moving for the establishment of a Psychopathic Ward at that institution. *Psychopathic Ward* Butler Hospital Trustees, appreciating the importance of quick relief for mental and nervous cases, short of certification by physicians and without humiliating court procedure, will welcome this humane movement and wish for its success. In such a ward many a patient, as abundantly shown by

experience in other cities, might thus be spared the need for treatment either in the State Hospital or at Butler Hospital; and, in any event, as a clearing-house for the transfer later of cases to either institution, it would serve a most useful purpose. It is also proposed, should the measure go through, to hold an out-patient clinic for mental and nervous diseases at the hospital. If at the outset, as contemplated in the scheme, the beds should not exceed a dozen, the comparatively small cost for construction and maintenance for that number of patients should surely not be a too severe tax on the city budget.

Ways and means have been a hard problem throughout the year and the difficulty of making both ends meet was never greater.

The enormous increase in the cost of *Financial* supplies, to say nothing of that of *Condition* labor, is an old story to you all. Nevertheless one may stress a few items of staple consumption to adorn our tale of woe. E. g., towards the close of the year the price of bacon had advanced over the price current in 1914, 106%; beans, 259%; beef, 129%; butter, 53%; canned corn, 114%; canned tomatoes, 169%; cheese, 60%; flour, 123%; gingham, 260%; ham, 94%; hogs, 92%; molasses, 151%; mutton, 123%; print cloth, 274%; worsted yarn, 206%. And more serious perhaps than any of these items of supply has been the cost of coal. Our income for the last quarter of the year was in round numbers, including that from beneficiary funds, about \$15,000 per month. Taking October as a fair sample, our total expense

was \$21,600, which included 313 tons of coal for storage, costing \$3295, thus making the net expense, including coal consumed but not stored, \$18,305, or a loss of \$3300 for that month. The total coal bill for November was \$10,596.85, and that for December \$4893.07. Basing estimates on the foregoing and other figures, it seemed almost certain, if relief were not forthcoming, that we should have to face, by April 1st of this year, a deficit of \$34,800. At your special meeting called December 4th to discuss our financial embarrassment, certain practical measures were suggested by your Treasurer, and your superintendent was authorized to raise the price of board in certain cases, particularly for patients of non-Rhode Island residence. By the latter expedient we have gained in weekly income a modest increase. But our "very present help in time of trouble" came at Christmas as a substantial, indeed munificent, gift from one of your Board whom I hope I may name, even against his preference, as Mr. Stephen O. Metcalf. It was as if that gentleman had heard at the special meeting an echo of the cry of the men of Gibeon to Joshua, "Slack not thy hand from thy servants; come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us." The result was no less satisfactory than in the historic instance, for with a free gift of \$10,000 great things may be done towards wiping out our deficit and averting impending disaster. And if our benefactor hates "the pap of praise," he may at least be gently reminded that Cicero, though himself not a very modest man, was right when he said that the only praise that mattered was that bestowed

by those who had earned it and so, speaking for Butler Hospital, let me hope, not too proudly, that the institution may, for purposes of this grateful acknowledgment, be regarded as having merited his gracious bounty.

In this same context of beneficence, the President of your Board will let me acknowledge as superintendent his handsome gift of \$4000 in Liberty Bonds as an addition to the principal of the Merriman Fund.

During the year twenty candidates were admitted to the women's nursing service, fifteen of whom were accepted. I regret to report the death of two nurses, Miss Nellie Potter and Miss Susan B. McVey, of pneumonia following influenza. Fourteen women nurses were graduated on May 31st.

*The
Training
School*

At the end of the year there were twenty-two nurses in the service here and fourteen at Fordham Hospital.

Thirty-one new men were employed during the year in the male nursing service, most of them remaining for very short periods. Twenty-eight men left the service. Four men graduated in May and all went into Army or Navy service. The nursing staff was reduced for a time to ten men, and at the beginning of the school year no candidates were found for the men's training school. Now, however, there are seven pupil nurses in that department and ten others who did not care to take the three years' course.

The address to the graduating class was given by Miss Mary S. Gardner, at that time Director of Town

and Country Nursing Service of the American Red Cross.

Of our graduates thirty-three women and forty-three men have been in the service of their country. Two men have died of disease.

The circulation for the year was 3351. The total number of persons borrowing books was 227, of whom 80 were patients and 87 nurses. The
The Library accessions numbered 227, of which 54 volumes were gifts.

Miss Luther left the service, on leave, on October 23d to do reconstruction work in an Army hospital. Her place is ably supplied by Miss Hope Gladding.

Grateful acknowledgment is here made of a gift of one hundred dollars from Mrs. Albert E. Follett for the library. The gift of books
Gifts from numerous kind donors is referred to elsewhere. Mention should also be made in this paragraph of a very generous gift from Colonel Frank W. Matteson for the benefit of all women nurses who had performed extra service by reason of the influenza epidemic.

The Reverend Frank Appleton has officiated as chaplain during part of the year. The choir of St. Paul's Church, Pawtucket, furnished
Chapel Services Easter music as usual. Father Craig or Father Carty has said Mass once a month during the year. Mrs. DeLancey Kane is kindly providing an altar and vestments for these latter services.

Entertainments have been given by the University

Glee Club, with Miss Marian E. Lovell as soloist and Miss Blanche N. Davis accompanist; the Players, the Entertainers, and the Technical High School Alumni Association.

Entertainments

The New England Society of Psychiatry held a regular meeting here on March 29th.

Butler Hospital did not escape the epidemic of influenza, though the disease was limited almost entirely to employees and nurses and

its spread to our wards prevented by rigid isolation and quarantine. For several weeks the hospital was closed to visitors. I cannot praise too highly

The Epidemic of Influenza

the zeal and cheerfulness with which extra work, day and night, was undertaken by our meagre staff, and I regret that one cannot get rid of the debt by the mere statement of our obligation to those who toiled ceaselessly while the plague was on. It were invidious to mention names since the self-giving was universal. Indeed, all through the amazing year we have witnessed a devotion that in quantity and quality has been without precedent. It would seem as if all our people had taken a leaf from Mrs. Browning's notebook and no matter how many were the "nettles everywhere," they found "smooth green grasses" in larger evidence, and "the blue of heaven" always "larger than the cloud."

The resident medical staff has consisted throughout the year of Dr. Hall, supported since May 1st by Dr. Elizabeth M. Gardiner, formerly of Tuxedo

Park, New York, the value of whose timely help it is a pleasure here to attest. During the summer we

The Staff lost the services of Dr. Farnell, who had been on the staff as seroneurologist, and later, after the declaration of war, acting assistant physician in addition.

Ill health decided, indeed compelled, him to confine his attention to his professional work in special practice outside. Thereupon Dr. Charles A. McDonald, a former assistant on this staff and now a neurologist and instructor in Harvard Medical College, kindly arranged to give Butler Hospital three days' work each week as a clinical psychiatrist. With this meagre medical staff Butler Hospital has carried on. But mention should here be made of precious aid from consultants, more especially from the consulting surgeon, who has been frequently called upon throughout the year. Moreover, I acknowledge gratefully the daily service on ward and laboratory duty, as well as instructor in the Training School, during the months of April and May, of Dr. Alex M. Burgess, of this city, interrupted only when he was called to the colors as an officer in the United States Navy. Our consulting physician, Dr. Halsey DeWolf, has been absent overseas and elsewhere on Government service for the greater part of the year as Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy Medical Corps. Dr. Bigelow is still on foreign service. Dr. Kingman, who has so frequently assisted Dr. Smith, has recently returned from active duty abroad, and Dr. Harvey, also of the Consulting Staff, has been on military duty in this country.

Naturally, like difficulties have beset the steward's department, for the successful conduct of which under a heavy handicap I acknowledge my indebtedness, always growing, to Mr. Goss.

Mr. Frank C. Lawton, for seven years bookkeeper and in later years also gymnasium director, resigned on December 21st to enter upon practice in the city as an expert accountant. Miss Julia E. Hayes, who had also been employed on the books for over six years, left almost simultaneously for a reason equally cogent. Both had rendered excellent and faithful service, and are greatly missed in the office.

In words of unpremeditated farewell, uttered publicly but a few hours before his death, Theodore Roosevelt said: "There must be no sagging back in the fight for Americanism merely because the war is over."

*In
Conclusion*

And as the objective word in that appeal is all-inclusive, the trumpet summons to enduring militancy may apply even to hospitals like ours in which the arts of peace are practised; wherefore, in conclusion, one may hope and believe that the zeal and loyalty that have characterized the lay soldiery of Butler Hospital during the war now ended may be with us still and help by so much to give us place in the forefront of action under the agreeable security of your support and encouragement as trustees of a public which now for seventy-five years this institution has continuously served.

Respectfully submitted,

G. ALDER BLUMER,

Physician-in-chief and Superintendent.

22 January, 1919.

